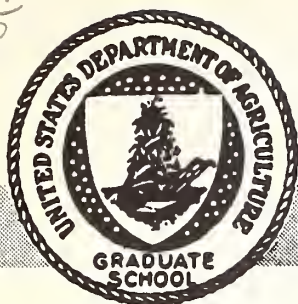


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# Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

September 24, 1951

To the Faculty, Committee Members and  
others associated with the Graduate School:

## Registration time

around GS is something like the threshing season on the farm in the old days before the combine. As the weather turns cool and brisk breezes sweep the falling leaves down Independence avenue, the pace around our place becomes brisk and then hurried and finally, perhaps a bit harassed. The hallways are filled with boxes of books and schedules and special announcements. The staff begins a frantic search for additional class rooms. The phones ring. The trickle of visitors enlarges to a full flowing stream. The mail an avalanche. Then we set up shop in the patio. The Administration building becomes our "Old Main". When enrollment gets in full swing the scene is worthy of a Gluyas Williams. Here we are...from 18 to 80...tall, short, fat, thin...gay and cheerful...serious and withdrawn...standing in line visiting with our neighbors...sitting at tables absorbed in individual problems. Children explore the halls and examine the fountain. Staffers counsel on courses...pass out cards...collect fees...sell textbooks. There are crises. A late registrant simply must get in a class that's already closed. Some classes don't get enough students. The enrollees must be notified the class won't go on. The little conference room won't hold the class assigned there. We must find another. And so it goes. Like threshing time? Yes, in that everyone must lend a hand. Work harder, longer hours than we thought we had the strength for. And rejoice when it's finished.

If you didn't get in on registration activities, it still isn't too late for you to take advantage of your GS connection and enroll for a course at the reduced rate allowed to all faculty and committee members. Although the crescendo is fading now, it will still be registration time until October 5.

## New teachers,

David D. Mason, who is teaching "Design of Experiments in Biological Sciences" at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, is a Virginian who studied at King College, Bristol, Tennessee, and the University of North Carolina, where he earned his doctorate. He joined BPISAE at Beltsville in 1949 after serving 2 years on the staff of Ohio University.

Martin Weiss, who teaches "Genetics and Plant Breeding," is an Iowan. He joined BPISAE as a junior geneticist in May 1936, and is now in charge of research on soybean breeding and diseases. Dr. Weiss holds the BS, MS, and Phd degrees from Iowa State College.

What house organs do you read?

Chances are you've seen a story about the 1951-52 offerings of GS in your own periodical. We've been pleased with the fine response we've had to a brief background story we sent to editors of house organs in scores of agencies.

We liked this accolade in the Weather Bureau's HI-LO:

"O' tell me Sage - where o' where is the most diversified range of studies given in the world? The Sorbonne in France; Columbia in New York; Ye Old Heidelberg? The West Berlin Free School? Naah, perish the thought!

"But then where?--But here, in D. C.! Here in D. C.? You mean GU? GW? Nope, none of these. Let's end the guessing game. You know of course we mean the one and only Graduate School of the Ag Dept., right down 14th street near the Mall. By golly they've got courses there that the most ambitious prexy with an extra million hasn't even thought or heard of."

"Costs of publishing,"

says Henry M. Silver, adviser on publications to the American Council of Learned Societies, "now require an author to consider a problem (of production) before he begins his manuscript rather than after he has finished it."

This pertinent comment is one of a number that will be of interest to those of you who are writing books. It comes from the University Press number (June 16) of THE SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE.

Along with it you'll want to read the excellent summary of papers given at the annual meeting of the Association of American University Presses in Toronto...carried in the June 30 issue of PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY. Both magazines are available from the USDA library. I particularly recommend the report of the panel, "How can the level of scholarly writing be raised and how satisfactory is it?" Pages 2605-2615 of PW.

"Economics of American Agriculture,"

an August release by Prentice-Hall, was written by Walter W. Wilcox (LOC) now a member of the GS staff and Willard W. Cochrane, Penn State, a former GS teacher. In 600 pages the writers present research and theoretical analysis in agricultural economics as applied to current problems in production, marketing, price fluctuation, world trade, and government policy.

It's getting to be a habit

with John Brewster (PMA) to win awards for writing. His paper "Machine Process in Agriculture and Industry" was judged the outstanding paper published in the JOURNAL OF FARM ECONOMICS in 1950. This is the second time he has received the recognition.

### Keeping records

was not a major objective in the founding of GS nor do we count it among our major accomplishments. But the maintenance of a permanent file on each student showing the course, instructor, and grade received has become an essential part of our operations. The system has been improved over the years. At one stage the information on several cards was compressed to go on one card. More recently it has been transferred to punch cards for maximum efficiency. The file is in continual use. It's easy to see why. Since we began keeping it, we've recorded information on some 90 thousand students and several thousand instructors. Apparently everyone who's had a GS course, lists it when he fills out forms for new jobs or has any reason to account for after hours activities. As a result there's a tremendous amount of traffic in and out of the permanent file to check on queries for verification. No question but the file serves an immediate purpose. The question that keeps cropping up in staff meetings is what is the ultimate usefulness of educational records. What do you think?

### A college prof makes a good intern

in the opinion of R. T. Milner, director of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Philadelphia. Describing his first experience with this type of appointment, Dr. Milner says he found, "Dr. Harold G. Reiber very helpful in applying his knowledge of fundamental chemistry to utilization studies of amino acids and proteins."

Dr. Milner calls attention to another value in offering research internships to college professors. "Upon Dr. Reiber's return to the Davis Branch of the University of California (after 4 months in the Laboratory) he became head of the chemistry department. In this position it is probable that he will assign some of his graduate students and associates to problems in the chemistry of proteins and amino acid...stimulated by some of the problems he met in his brief stay at the Laboratory."

R. Y. Winters, chairman of the GS committee on internship cooperation, has recently completed an article describing the Research Internship Program. It will be published in HIGHER EDUCATION.

### "Concern is growing in Washington,"

says the editor of GOOD GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER, "over a worrisome paradox: Federal employees number 2½ millions, a 5-year high; but expanding defense-labor needs are siphoning trained government workers off at an alarming rate. Latest estimate is that 1950's half-million turnover figures may be nearly doubled this year. Aside from money needed to train replacements this means snarl in operation, low morale."

Closely related is the serious shortage of scientifically and technically trained personnel. In a press release August 28, Charles E. Wilson, NPA, urged industry and government to develop both on-the-job training programs with educational institutions to help employed persons get scientific technical training.



### Latest recipients

of GS certificates of accomplishment in office techniques are: Nova W. Clark, a clerk in business services BPISAE; Frederick W. Barnett, Navy; Hazel Hulings, PMA; and James O. Banks, GAO. Miss Hulings began her course of study in 1948. The others have been enrolled for GS courses only since 1949.

### Let me remind you

that audio-visual aids can be obtained for class use from Mrs. Ruth Carlock in the GS office. Our equipment consists of a filmstrip projector, a slide projector that uses Kodachromes, a slide projector that uses 3½ by 4½ slides, a baloptican, a recording machine and record player, and a 16mm motion picture sound projector. Mrs. Carlock says she needs a week's notice for best service on these loans.

### "Man and His Years"

now in the presses of the Health Publications Institute, Inc., of Raleigh, N. C., is the title of a book on the first national conference on aging. Eleven chapters of the 300-page book correspond in subject matter to the material covered in 11 sections of the Conference. Oscar R. Ewing wrote the opening chapter.

## AMONG OURSELVES

O. C. Stine, who retired as assistant chief of BAE, August 30, and began an assignment to make an appraisal of U. S. agricultural programs for the Twentieth Century Fund. Long a key figure in GS faculty and committees, he will continue to teach the course, "Research Methods in Social Sciences".

T. Swan Harding, who retired as editor of USDA, August 30 and will take up new duties as special writer and editor at the Agricultural Experiment Station in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico in November. He has often aided GS through provocative and persuasive notes in USDA.

E. R. McIntyre, new editor of USDA. We are indebted to him for frequent sound advice on our publications and information policies. He's a member of the GS Information Committee.

Sincerely,

*Lewis H. Roberts*

Director

